

December 2009 Announcements

Upcoming Activities

January 23 Northwest District Ice Fishing Contest

Snail Lake Regional Park on Saturday, January 23, 2010. Flyers and registration forms will be posted shortly. **New this year: We will post on the Northwest District web the final go/no-go for weather and ice reasons on January 22nd. Please check the Northwest District website within the 24 hours before the event to see if the event is being moved to the alternate date due to severe weather or for other reasons.**

Contact event chair [Keith Ketchmark](#) if you have any questions (651-765-8007).

February 22 or March 1 Wali-ga-zu

Wali Ga Zu is a district-wide patrol skills competition. Every year Troops register their patrols to compete in this event. This inter-troop and inter-patrol Scout skills activity's purpose is to promote learning, practicing and demonstrating five of the basic Scout skills (Tripod Building / Lashing, First Aid, Nature Identification, Map and Compass Skills, Knot Tying). Awards are presented based on proficiency and speed. The 2010 Wali Ga Zu will be held on February 22nd and March 1st, 2010 at the St. John the Evangelist School gym in Little Canada. (Troops participate on one of the two days.)

Detailed information for 2010 is available on the **Northwest District website** activities page.

Start practicing now! **Please read the Planning Guide carefully, as there are a number of changes this year.** You may contact Event Chair [Dick Thomalla](#) (651-484-6425) to register for this event. The 2010 Nature Identification is Trees.

March 6 Merit Badge Saturday

Merit Badge Saturday is scheduled for March 6, 2010. We plan to provide online pre-registration.

If you have a Merit Badge Counselor that is willing to offer a Merit Badge, please contact John Hanson.

We hope to announce Merit Badges by the first week in February.

April 10 District Pinewood Derby

The 2010 Northwest District Pinewood derby will be held on Saturday, April 10, 2010 at St. John the Evangelist School gym in Little Canada. The top 5 finishers from each Northwest District pack are invited to compete in the Northwest District Pinewood Derby. There is no need to pre-register. The top 10 finishers will be invited to race in the Council Pinewood Derby race.

April 22 District Dinner

Save the date!! Dinner will be at St. Odilia Church in Shoreview

April 24 Scouting for Food

No bags this year. If you would like to revise your territory, contact Warren Plaisance (651-308-0456)

May 14-16 Webelos Woods

Fred C. Anderson Scout Camp

May 21-23 Star Camp

StarCamp is Northern Star Council's Centennial Super Event, celebrating 100 years of Scouting in the great outdoors! StarCamp is for all Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, Venturers, Explorers and Leaders in Northern Star Council, plus Special Guests. Boy Scouts, Venturers, and Leaders will be camping on Friday-Sunday, May 21-23, 2010. Cub Scouts, Leaders, and Guests will be coming for the fun on Saturday, May 22, 2010. StarCamp will be an opportunity to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of the BSA, enjoy outstanding program, showcase 'Scouting in Action' to our community, and energize our Scouts and volunteers. Activities at the event will focus on "100 Years of Scouting in the Great Outdoors", with program-specific Activity Areas (for Cub Scouts, Webelos Boy Scouts, and Venturers); Special Events; Displays and Exhibits; and much more!

Order of the Arrow

OA Vigil Honor Nominations:

The lodge has moved the schedule for Vigil Honor nominations forward. Vigil Honor nomination forms should be prepared and submitted to the chapter adviser, Brandon Peterson by the January Roundtable meeting. Please see the Lodge website (<http://oa.nsbsa.org>) for a list of eligible members, and the current Vigil Honor Nomination form. Contact Brandon Peterson (pete1572@gmail.com) with any questions.

Upcoming Training

Woodbadge Courses <http://training.nsbsa.org/Courses.aspx?courseID=2>

2010 Winter Course - FCA/Kiwanis Scout Camps Brian Steele Course Director

Weekend 1: February 5-7 (Fred C. Andersen Scout Camp)

Weekend 2: March 5-7 (Kiwanis Scout Camp)

Camping

---- CAMPING FOR EVERYONE ----

Camperships - Northern Star Council is committed to providing camping opportunities for *every* scout. If finances are a problem for a scout or family in your unit, apply for a campership. In 2009 over \$60K in camperships were funded!

<http://northernstarbsa.org/Forms/Camping/CampershipApplication.pdf>

Star Camp -- Join ten thousand others to celebrate the BSA Centennial on May 21-23, 2010 at the Arden Hills Army Training Site. As it gets closer, more details will be at

<http://www.northernstarbsa.org/StarCamp>

Planning and organization for this event is heating up in the back rooms of the council. If you would like to serve on staff, apply now:

<http://www.northernstarbsa.org/Forms/Activities/StarCampStaffInterestForm.pdf>

---- CUB SCOUT CAMPING ----

Polar Cubs -- Think Snow! Available slots for the 2010 Polar Cub season are going fast! Camp dates start January 9th and run every Saturday and Sunday through March 6th. Scouting in Minnesota doesn't get any better - a day of play in the snow.

\$29/scout, \$9/adult. Sign up at www.goscouting.org

Camp Greenwood Tours -- If you would like to check out this new camp near Buffalo MN, guided tours will be available Sat. Feb 13th, Fri. Mar 5, and Sat. Mar 6th. Use the form in your hangfile to reserve a spot.

Summer Camp -- Reservations open on January 4th. Now is the time to start making plans for your biggest Pack event of the year. In recognition of the BSA centennial, this year's camp theme is "Happy Birthday Scouting!". Sign up at www.goscouting.org

---- BOY SCOUT CAMPING ----

2010 Health Forms -- The new BSA health forms that will be required starting Jan. 1, 2010 are now online:

<http://www.northernstarbsa.org/Forms/Camping/Health-Form-HealthHistory.pdf>

<http://www.northernstarbsa.org/Forms/Camping/Health-Form-FullPhysicalAnnualBSA.pdf>

<http://northernstarbsa.org/Forms/Camping/BSALongTermCampingMedicalForm.pdf>

Snow Base & North Wind -- Pick your dates and make a reservation now! Camp will be open weekends January 8th through the end of February. Exciting outdoor programs for every age of scout.

12/9/2009

Huskies \$58, Spearhead \$72, Dog sledding \$185.

Membership

Packs/Troops/Teams/Crews: Please make sure ALL of your Scouts are registered with Scouting before the end of the year. If you have applications, or Scouts who are not registered but are active, please make sure you have them fill out an application and turn it into the Scout Office before December 30, 2009. Northwest District Membership Committee strives to grow the number of Scouts we serve in our communities each year. We need your help to make sure each active Scout is officially registered. If you are unsure who is registered with Scouting, please contact your District Executive Anna Hudak to do a roster check.

FOS



2009 Friends of Scouting "Leading in the Right Direction"



FRIENDS OF SCOUTING:

Tis the Season for Friends of Scouting, Northern Star Council's Annual Fundraising Campaign. Northern Star Council will strive to raise \$3 Million Dollars from our Scouting Families and Friends as well as local business support. Northwest District asks each of our Packs, Troops, Teams, and Crew to host a Friends of Scouting Presentation and give every family the opportunity to support Scouting. It costs \$171 per year to provide services to one youth in Scouting. Each Unit has a FOS packet, they are available for pick-up at Roundtable. Units are given two goals, a Base Goal and a Stretch Goal. Units who achieve their Base Goal will receive free Ranks and Merit Badges for the following year (June 2009-June 2010). Units who achieve their Stretch Goals will receive a free incentive item of their choice such as a New Unit Flag, 20 color Merit Badge Pamphlets, Selected Literature Book Kit, Cast Iron Skillet and Tri-Pod Lantern, or a Pinewood Derby Car for each registered Cub Scout. We ask each Unit to strive for 100% participation, which means 100% of the families in your unit have been asked to support Scouting via the Friends of Scouting Campaign and they have turned in a pledge card. Units who achieve 100% participation will receive a beautiful patch for each of their families. There are many additional levels of recognition for the Friends of Scouting Campaign, for additional details please contact your District Executive Anna Hudak.

Action Item for December: Submit your FOS presentation date/time/location to Northwest District Executive Anna Hudak.